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Office of General Counsel

Memorandum for the Director's Log

Submitted: 12 March 1952

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Mr. Houston, Mr. Pforzheimer and [] were invited to attend [] PSB staff meeting at which four points were considered.

1. The House Committee on Foreign Affairs prepared a staff study on the Kersten amendment which was based largely on information supplied by Mutual Security Agency, which in turn was based on Top Secret PSB studies. The staff meeting agreed the furnishing of this information was a serious breach of security and approved action, already agreed to by the Committee staff, ^{to} withdraw all copies quietly if possible and not to replace the study with a sterilized version which would merely stir up curiosity. It should be noted that the Committee was unaware that the information furnished it should have been classified.

2. When Mr. Dulles testified on the Kersten amendment, the Committee expressed a desire for a revision of the amendment which would be more suitable for the purposes intended. It was agreed at the PSB staff meeting that a draft revision should be prepared informally by PSB and the agencies represented thereon, together with the Mutual Security Agency. This would then be informally cleared with the Bureau of the Budget and informally submitted to the House Committee for it to adopt if it so desired.

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3. [] inquired whether the letters requesting the President to transfer 4.3 million of the Kersten amendment money to the Department of State, in accordance with Mr. Harriman's proposal to the House Foreign Affairs Committee, had been sent to Key West. He was informed by his staff that the letters were being retained by Mr. Sam Berger, Special Assistant to Mr. Harriman, and the PSB staff expressed their belief that Mr. Harriman was not aware of this situation. [] plans to inform the Board members of this fact, to see if further action is desired at this time, and requested CIA representatives to inform General Smith immediately.

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4. The PSB staff meeting considered a bill proposed by the DP Commission for further exceptions to the immigration restrictions and for the resettlement, rehabilitation and education program for DPs in Western Europe. It was agreed that this second part was closely related to PSB programs and that it would be highly desirable to prevent presentation of the bill to the Congress without further study and redrafting.

LAWRENCE R. HOUSTON
General Counsel

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